

Message Text

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PAGE 01 JAKART 10721 080816Z
ACTION EA-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SP-02 ICA-20 AID-05 EB-08 NSC-05
TRSE-00 SS-15 STR-07 OMB-01 CEA-01 L-03 H-02
PA-02 CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 COME-00 /094 W
-----127968 081200Z /53

R 080748Z AUG 78
FM AMEMBASSY JAKARTA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0718
INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK
AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR
AMEMBASSY MANILA
AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE

UNCLAS JAKARTA 10721

EO 11652: NA
TAGS: ASEAN, ID
SUBJ: IMPORTANCE OF THE US-ASEAN DIALOGUE

1. IN A STATEMENT AUGUST 7 COMMEMORATING THE ELEVENTH ANNIVERSARY OF THE FOUNDING OF ASEAN, FOREIGN MINISTER MOCHTAR KUSUMAATMADJA, NOW CHAIRMAN OF THE ASEAN STANDING COMMITTEE, SAID ASEAN IS NOW IN A MUCH BETTER POSITION THAN AT ITS INCEPTION BECAUSE THE WORLD HAS RECOGNIZED IT AS A BODY FOR REGIONAL COOPERATION IN SOUTHEAST ASIA. THE US-ASEAN DIALOGUE JUST HELD IN WASHINGTON PRODUCED LITTLE OF A CONCRETE NATURE HE NOTED, BUT THERE WAS GREAT POLITICAL SIGNIFICANCE IN THE FACT THAT AMERICAN OPINION, BOTH OFFICIAL AND PRIVATE, NOW RECOGNIZES THE EFFORTS BEING MADE BY ASEAN NATIONS IN THE FIELD OF PEACEFUL REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT.

2. MOCHTAR OBSERVED THAT AMERICAN INTEREST IN SOUTHEAST ASIA HAD DIMINISHED FOLLOWING THE VIETNAM WAR, BUT THE US-ASEAN DIALOGUE HAD REVIEWED IT AND AMERICANS WERE EXPECTED TO PAY MORE ATTENTION TO THE REGION IN THE FUTURE. HE SAID ASEAN WANTED TO ATTRACT THE ATTENTION OF US BUSINESSMEN,
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BECAUSE THE ASSOCIATION'S MAIN MISSION IS DEVELOPMENT. MOCHTAR CITED THE VISIT OF VICE PRESIDENT MONDALE TO SEVERAL ASEAN NATIONS IN MAY AS ANOTHER INDICATION OF RENEWED US INTEREST IN THE REGION.
BACON

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NNN

Message Attributes

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